
THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

The Official Journal
of the Association of
Assistant Librarians

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THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE
ASSOCIATION OF ASSISTANT LIBRARIANS
(Section of the Library Association)

ON. EDITOR W. B. STEVENSON

Hornsey Public Libraries

Ersatz Chocolate

J. F. W. Bryon

AN Oslo librarian claims to have invented an ersatz chocolate from fish. *He makes it from flour and dried fish with vegetable flour and fats with a 'chocolate flavour.'* 'Fish chocolate' is stated to be already on sale in Oslo sweetshops.—*Manchester Guardian*, 16th September, 1942.

The news item quoted has an ominous ring—an uncomfortably familiar note. Is it so very strange that it should be a librarian who offers chocolate surrogate? Isn't just another straw in the wind of professional hypocrisy? Not all of us are as practical as our Scandinavian colleague, but most of us, in greater or less degree, are guilty of this lack of integrity, and not all with his honesty of admission.

For at least he makes no pretence that his substitute is the real thing, while we, so frequently, claim that our playing at librarianship is the best that our profession can offer, condoning our omissions and glossing our weaknesses—or even claiming them as triumphs, in the manner of some communique writers. To the profession as a whole we maintain a bland front, and to our ratepayers boldly offer swollen statistics as evidence of value for money. But if our public are satisfied by such behaviour, our conscience should not be. There can never be any real substitute for service, and no matter how respectable the facade we maintain, the true nature of our building will eventually be evident—in the thought and conduct of generations to come.

If in place of nutritive literature we give an artificially produced imitation of the genuine article, cleverly flavoured to fool all but the initiated, our Chairman may be gullible enough to accept us at our face value, our Committee may be fooled and the ratepayer hoodwinked, but quality will tell in the end. Persistent mental malnutrition results in mental debility and intellectual rickets, socially as well as individually. "A balanced stock," so often lauded and so rarely sought, means a balanced diet for our community's reading—not the cream pastries and mineral waters of the commercial library, but *adult* literature.

Variety in the menu is advised by doctors, and should be advocated by librarians also; our catering should be intelligent. We stand *in loco parentis* to our readers, but whereas parents may enforce the unwelcome, we must make the wholesome palatable. Indulgence is not to be frowned upon inevitably and invariably, but it should be profitable indulgence—in caviare and a heady wine, pate de foie gras or an exotic soufflé, not the crate of coca-cola with cream doughnuts of schooldays. Let our mental recreation be mature.

By this I mean that occasionally, with our book fund, we might make a concession to extravagance—buy that rare book on anatomy, that elaborately illustrated travel

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book, that limited edition or lavish fine art volume. It's fun—and it's also good policy. In order to take this step you may have sacrificed four of the dozen copies of the best seller you'd ordered, but it'll be worth it. Long after the remaining eight are collecting dust and the junior assistants' execrations, your one ewe lamb will be satisfying the student, intriguing the intellectual, savoured by the savant or coveted by the connoisseur.

An aside on rare books of this nature.. Some consider such volumes as outside the scope of the rate-supported library, but why? Are all men everywhere, except the rich, to be condemned to bread-and-butter books, and never be given a glimpse of the finest products of the bookman's art? Americans have the idea. Some of them devote a special room to books valued for their appearance rather than their content—examples of the printer's or the binder's skill and artistry. Every independent library should endeavour to have some such section as this, however small, where may be instilled a love and understanding of the book as a treasure as well as a tool. Larger services should have a separate room and frequent displays of good printing, binding, paper, etc.

It is a theme which has excited many pens in the past, and will again, but at a time when we are at war for certain values, it is fitting that we reconsider the sincerity of our profession of faith. In the realisation that we have great allies in the war against ignorance, prejudice, barbaric principles and animal suspicion, we shall come to understand the greatness of our responsibilities. Librarians in China, America and Russia know the same problems of materialism and philistinism that we know. We should have more interchange of experience through our professional journals, through booklists and personal contacts than we have at present. (There is surely some agency for the translation necessary to communication with 600 million people?)

Already we plan our post-war world, and a detailed report has been made advocating the part to be played in that world by libraries revitalised for the purpose. What provision is being made for the international exchange of books essential to true librarianship? Could not the Copyright Acts be extended under government grant to ensure that one copy of every non-fiction book published in this country reaches Washington, Moscow and Peking? What guarantee have we that we shall not relapse into that happy innocence concerning foreign publications which has marked our service in the past? What has been done to make available the quickly-out-of-date or expensive tomes that only the larger systems obtain at present? What have we done towards ending the deliberate pawning of culture for ephemera that goes on in so many library services? What have we done and what do we intend to do?

The country has suffered (there are at present some encouraging signs of voluntary treatment) from the manifold characteristics of intellectual starvation. The strain placed on a balanced mentality by war is great. On minds not stabilised by wide reading the effect is terrific, and a proneness to mental and moral ailments is marked. These ailments are usually epidemic—refugee-phobia, Vansittartism, spy-hunts, general susceptibility to suggestion and propaganda, culminating in mass hysteria which alters history—for the worse.

All this is a great deal to lay at the door of libraries, I agree. But we must bear some of the blame for the lack of mental background which is the cause of faults in our National War Economy. Black Markets, absenteeism, profiteering, Fifth Column activity, thrive on mental malnutrition, and are absent where people are educated to reflect and to consider. To the extent that we misuse our means in book-selection, we are Fifth Columnists of Civilisation—the Quislings of Culture.

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Valuations

M. L. Jackson

NOTHING is surer to upset valuations than a multitude of annual reports and booklists showing such a variety of principles and practice. What is important? For whom is a report intended? Is it better to list an imposing area of recent additions in immaculate Gill Sans, or to produce a short list, duplicated and annotated honestly with constant thought for the individual to whom one would personally recommend the books?

Judging from some of the booklists, librarians have strange complexes about fiction. They emphasise with pride that the increase in issues "is not confined to fiction as some critics would have us believe." Or again, "the proportion of adult fiction issues . . . was only 55 per cent. . . . about one-half of the total non-fiction issues were scientific and technical manuals directly or indirectly connected with actual wartime activities . . ." This, surely, is due to the necessity for a certain type of reading rather than a higher standard in reading, and what happened to the 22½ per cent. in peace time?

If these worthy thoughts were believed, some of the fiction appearing in booklists should never have been bought. The fiction, of course, is generally hidden at the end of a list, so that while books like *Ten fighter boys* are fully annotated, the novel of note has summary mention with pot-boiler fiction. One of the few examples of annotated fiction in lists is seen in *Edmonton's* quarterly booklist, and here, no one cares to mention that Hurston's *Man of the mountain* is about Moses, although P. C. Wren's *Uniform of glory* is amplified with "the story of a Free Frenchman's night out." *Aberdeen* hustles Neumann and Feuchtwanger with Joan Sutherland, and *Middlesbrough's* "Selected fiction for discriminating readers" selects (from what?) Cheyney, N. Jacob and a "blood" or two. *Bethnal Green*, for whose publications I have a high regard, annotates the non-fiction with friendly erudition, but not the fiction. At *Tottenham*, where "even library staffs read," "Bill" finds *The saint goes west* better than card-playing, and "Reb" describes *The house of little birds* as "super-spy stuff with a dash of Lawrence of Arabia." And so the lyrical joy on the high percentage of non-fiction issues seems strange in the light of this

"they pay the rates,
let's all be mates

And find them a good, low blood" philosophy.

Behind its excessively refined exterior, the October *Portsmouth Reader* conceals a spirited list on "the essence of England," comprehensive enough to cover most of the countryside, but not so full as to confuse the reader. Long quarterly lists with correct bibliographical entries are so often what Lamb (not J. P.) would call "an endless battery of mere words." This explains why the bulletins from *Aberdeen* and *Edmonton*, apart from their funereal frontage, are duller and less pleasant to handle than the monthly folders from *Bethnal Green* and *Hornsey*. The *Bethnal Green* list is well printed in bright blue on good white paper and intelligently annotated. *Hornsey's* list on cheerful yellow paper shows how much information can be given by grouping a few books under good, arresting headings. It seems a pity that when, in the summary of *Hornsey's* library service, the attention has been aroused by the mention of a large collection of children's books, there should be no children's books mentioned in the list. *Islington's* pink-and-yellow bulletins are violent rather than cheerful in colour, the annotations are pithy, but are set in too small a print for easy reading.

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I am beginning to know the smug female with the flower on the cover of *Southport* quarterly bulletin. The general list is uninspired, with some more microscopic notes, but the preliminary list on China is a very useful piece of work. Two sections of Chinese art appear separately in the list, each beginning with Ashton's history. Perhaps Buck's *Good earth* and *A house divided* are recommended among the novels about China, so there seems no reason for omitting *Sons*, the middle volume of the trilogy. Above, I have implied that *Tottenham's* December list is hearty, but it is a friendly not a pompous heartiness which only occasionally drifts into self-conscious patter. I like the ingenious introductions to such much-read subjects as the experiences of doctors, and the sudden appearance of a chat on some new cookery books in the middle of the general list. *Tottenham* has a Book Quiz scheme for its junior librarians: teams of three boys and three girls meeting one another in a series of contests on book knowledge. This of course, pre-supposes a large amount of preparation and guidance from well-read adults, so that the young may really enlarge their knowledge of books worth reading.

The list of "Books for Youth Leaders" from *Halifax* shows no more initiative than a good many youth leaders, and seems to be mainly Rodney Bennett and Sir Hedges. Youth clubs would welcome a list of worth-while plays to read and produce, some good fiction, and some of the best anthologies of song. And if the Junior Week-end Book, why not the Week-end Book? *Cardiff's* small subject booklists are always a pleasure to see, and "Produce your own food" is a useful selection for the school gardener.

In spite of its excellent production, I do not approve of the *Bristol* "Holidays at home" booklist. It is too full, a mass of author and title in chapter form which gives little guidance to the casual off-for-a-week reader, and doesn't offer an index to the one-theme enthusiast. The fiction list should suggest specific titles, not authors alone—an alphabetical string from Austen-Dell to Young, F. B., F.E.M., headed "Romances" is likely to irritate. *Oxford* has produced a booklist on U.S.A. with a plain, dignified exterior, some quotations which are often amusingly apt, and a lot of titles.

There are so many titles and there is so little information in some booklists that I am never sure how they can help the interested reader in search of guidance for whom such a list is surely intended.

Newark's list on "Workshop practice" is a well-grouped and carefully annotated work. I could see no date on the list, but I presume that it is a 1942 publication, in which case, one or two of the books mentioned could be in more up-to-date editions, including Rose's *Maths. for engineers*, Burham's *Engineering economics*, and Atkins's *Electric arc and oxy-acetylene welding*. As a contrast, *Luton's* duplicated "Technical bulletin" lists in clear type some 1941 and 1942 publications, thus giving a short, practical selection of up-to-date technical books. The only drawback to the list is the fact that the eye cannot readily pick out the titles from the annotations.

I feel that the importance of the annual report is vastly over-rated, but that may be the effect of annual reports in the bulk, all so wordy and so much the same. Relentlessly, the same phrases appear:—every endeavour, place on record, in a position to repeat, and continue to flourish. Librarians augment and up-grade, and occasionally they say: "Ask the librarian to ascertain whether it is available elsewhere in the system." All libraries report an increase in issues and work, and a lack of books and staff. My copy of the *Beddington and Wallington* duplicated report was not very clear, but I gathered that the year, which included a Junior Bookweek, had been a strenuous one. *Heston and Isleworth* report shows an imposing barrage on the front sheet, with two lots of committees and all staff and cleaners, and continues the attack with statistics. *Kettering* has a more human touch, and the report makes interesting

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reading for the citizen. I would like to see a note of the Junior stock as well as the senior issues. *Portsmouth* must have caused uneasiness with the stern "only wilful blindness or sheer ignorance could fail to note the significance of 560,000 issues in five months in present conditions."

On the whole, I see little usefulness in lists of books which have been most reserved during the year. They remind me of *Foylibra*, and inflate annual reports which are already too long. The first report of the South Australian Libraries Board is informative and concise and shows how a network of libraries is being efficiently produced. The provision of Junior books (4,788 in a stock of 217,518) seems regrettably low.

I have yet to finish the monumental two-year report from the *Enoch Pratt Baltimore Public Library*.

(Will it be tact

To strain the Anglo-American pact

By not reviewing Baltimore

This war ?)



Librarianship and Publicity

Robert L. Clayton

READING Mr. R. H. Blackburn's article, "The Librarian's Role," in the September issue of the *Library Association Record*, my interest was particularly caught by the challenging statement, "The librarian has always tended to function as a passive agent in the general educational and social scheme of things. But can we assume that this will continue much longer?"

It will continue until we accept the task complementary to the provision and administration of libraries—the creation of a public alive to the many benefits which librarianship has to offer them. How are we to create such a public? I suggest that the problem is largely a matter of adequate publicity, or to use a more uncompromising term—propaganda.

Our failure to become articulate in the past has not been wholly a misfortune, since there were as many "Brave New Worlds" for libraries as there were librarians. The war has introduced a note of urgency into our deliberations. It has stimulated the production of the McColvin Report. If a profession of individualists can produce so painstaking and precise a document as this, we have the basis for successful library propaganda.

The value of purposive and discriminating propaganda is shown by the success of *Britain needs Books*, by John Brophy (National Book Council, 1s. 3d.). In the Preface Brophy says he is setting out to explain the book trade, and especially the book trade in war time, to those who read books and care for them. It seems that a careful inquiry has convinced Mr. Brophy that publishers are a fairly selfless body of men. "They do use the profits from best-sellers to subsidise the work of young authors and authors who are never likely to reach a wide public. Quite a number of booksellers stock books which are likely to remain on their shelves for years, using up capital and bringing no immediate return, merely because they think them good books." For no obvious reason Mr. Brophy follows this with the admission: "Librarians do read, in evenings and at week-ends, and will go to remarkable trouble to help borrowers to find books they want."

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So much for librarians and libraries. The rest is naturally and legitimately about the trials and tribulations of publishers in war time. The Select Bibliography at the end of the book reveals the number of men and women of distinction who have written about book production and distribution. There is a quotation from *The Book Crisis* by Arundell Esdaile, under the heading, "In Eulogy of Books in War Time." There is also the text of an address by Archibald McLeish called "A Freeman's Books," delivered to the American Booksellers' Association at their annual conference in May 1942. Mr. McLeish's address is described on the cover of *Britain needs Books* as "a fitting postscript."

It would make an agreeable change if Mr. Brophy or some other spokesman of publishing could write a fitting postscript to a book expounding the contribution of public libraries to war-time reading. Despite all handicaps, public libraries have carried on, have done good work in supplying servicemen with books, while coping with increased issues at home.

The significance of this is not lost on our more thoughtful contemporaries. *The New Statesman*, *The Spectator* and *Truth* have all written eulogistically of public libraries. In the *New Statesman* (7th November, 1942), H. J. Laski wrote: "I have been reading with great interest the report of L. R. McColvin, the City librarian of Westminster, on the present condition and future of our public library system. His material is too important for a note." After reference to the war-time issues, Mr. Laski continues: "I learn with interest that the Ministry of Labour asked that library facilities should be provided at or near factories and offered financial assistance; but Mr. McColvin states that though detailed schemes have been submitted by a number of librarians, he is not aware of any grant having been made." Is that the Treasury? One's instinct is almost to assume that if a Department has a really good idea the Treasury by force of habit gets into mourning. *Spectator's* Notebook (21st August 1942) remarked: "Such indications as become available from time to time about the general trend of reading in war time are interesting and on the whole encouraging." Then follows a long consideration of the Leeds City Libraries Report for the year ending 31st March, 1942. Summing up, the *Spectator* finds the facts in the Report indicative "of the tendency of the public mind to concern itself with things that matter."

Truth (20th November, 1942) under the heading "Britain's Bookiest Borough," remarks on the enterprise of St. Pancras, Brentford and Chiswick libraries, as shown by their annual reports. "What about other London, and the provincial, boroughs?" asks the writer. In a letter to Mr. Collin Brooks, the editor, I pointed out that these boroughs are not alone in their enterprise, and commended the McColvin Report to him as significant, coming from a profession as individualistic as *Truth* could wish.

It would seem that important contemporaries are appreciative, but little informed about Public Libraries. Are they to blame for this? Surely a profession containing such men as Archibald McLeish, Arundell Esdaile, L. S. Jast, W. C. B. Sayers, R. D. H. Hilton-Smith and Stanley Snaith has something to say for itself?

Librarianship is not for librarians alone. Let us, like the publishers, address our public. If we do not, we may encourage the public which has not learned to think about the things that matter, to agree with a Blimp of the last war that "a hairdresser is more valuable to a country at war than a librarian." We must demonstrate our value to war-time Britain, our ability, not only to give practical help to the serviceman or war worker through book organisation and the Citizens' Advice Bureau, but even more important—our capacity to nourish the spiritual and moral fibre of the nation which, in Napoleon's view, is to the physical as three is to one.

In the task of public enlightenment, the public libraries, in the words of the McColvin

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Report, "can present each reader with a full and ordered conspectus of human achievement and aspiration, which can be obtained in no other way." The Library Association should issue an authoritative book about the public libraries in war time. We should urge the B.B.C. to give time to talks about aspects of library work. The broadcasts for schools might well include occasional features on the use of public libraries by children. It is high time we ceased to admit, even reluctantly, to the title of the Cinderella service of Local Government. The requirements demanded of personnel by the McColvin Report should dispose for ever of the idea of a librarian as a rather special sort of shop assistant. The public library is the natural headquarter of cultural life in its locality. Let us by every means in our power establish and strengthen contacts with other cultural bodies.

Advertisements in the national press should instil into the public mind that even in this time of acute book shortage, every man should, and can, have the book he wants. The public should know what is being done to provide reading material for the troops, and that this extra work is but a small part of the stupendous whole. Specific aspects of library work should receive attention. Books should be utilised to supply war-time needs and advertisements should point the moral. An excellent instance of this is the coloured poster, showing the market gardener plying his hoe, beneath which is some such caption as "Learn from a book." If librarians could sink a little of their precious individuality, and combine to select a given minimum of new books, we could have a national library magazine, which would attract by its appearance, and literary quality. The advantages of co-operative cataloguing in this connection suggest themselves.

These are some of the ways in which, by judicious propaganda, we can give effect to the vision behind the McColvin charter. Public libraries have not evolved so far to falter for lack of a coherent and articulate faith. We must not remain helpless in a void between two worlds, "one dead, the other powerless to be born."



Current Books : Literature and Arts

VICTOR FISCHL, Editor. *Antonin Dvorak : his life and works*. Lindsay Drummond. 8s. 6d.

This symposium is a welcome contribution to our knowledge of Czech music. A long biographical introduction by the editor is followed by articles on Dvorak's symphonies, chamber music, songs and other works by various eminent critics and performers, among whom may be mentioned Edwin Evans, Gerald Abraham, H. C. Colles, Astra Desmond and Harriet Cohen. The book as a whole gives us an all-round view of this great composer, and the national music of his country. There are copious musical examples.

JOHN GLOAG, Editor. *The place of glass in building*. Allen and Unwin. 7s. 6d.

Glass is one of the building materials of the future, and this compact book is a handy reference work to its properties and uses. Thanks to the co-operation of the two greatest English glass manufacturers, Messrs. Chance and Messrs. Pilkington, the many varieties of glass are described and illustrated, with tables of their strength and suggestions for their best use. The illustrations are excellent.

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JOSEPH HONE. *W. B. Yeats*. Macmillan. 25s.

This, the definitive and authorised biography of the greatest English poet of our time, is an ably written and complete record of his life. Yeats was a puzzling character, who combined profundity with an almost naive belief in the occult, and was able to be at once an intense nationalist and a world figure. Yeats' amazing "second period" poetry has been the inspiration of many of our younger writers, and this book gives us some clues to the reason for this late flowering of his genius. On the whole, however, Mr. Hone has kept to biography and left to others the work of analysis.

FRANK HOWES. *The Music of William Walton*. 2 Vols. Humphrey Milford (O.U.P.). 2s. each. (The Musical Pilgrim.)

These excellent little books contain one of the most illuminating pieces of criticism in the series, devoted to the greatest English composer of our time. Walton's music is not easily approachable, and Mr. Frank Howes has done much to increase our understanding of its complex, and at times violent, ideas. The works dealt with include the symphony, the viola, and violin concertos, "Belshazzar's Feast," "Facade" and the minor works. The musical examples are most numerous, and the format, as usual with this publisher, impeccable.

JANKO LAVRIN. *Dostoevsky*. Methuen. 7s. 6d.

Few critics are better qualified than Professor Lavrin to illumine the extraordinary work of Dostoevsky. A brief biographical introduction gives us the details of his career. His life as a student, his exile to Siberia, and his passion for gambling are all exemplified in the novels and stories which are criticised in following chapters. Of all Russian writers, Dostoevsky is most typical of the "Russian soul," and this brilliant little book will contribute much to our understanding of him and of his country.

J. A. T. LLOYD. *Ivan Turgenev*. Robert Hale. 12s. 6d.

The recent revival of interest in Russian literature will be strengthened by this fine biography of Turgenev, one of the country's greatest novelists. Mr. Lloyd is a critic as well as a biographer, and into his narrative is woven an acute analysis of Turgenev's works. His life was indeed interesting, for he knew all the great literary figures of his time; and in the long sequence of novels and short stories, from *A nest of gentlefolk* to *Virgin soil*, we can see the emergence of that impulse to freedom that brought about the Russian revolution. This is a first class critical work; it is to be hoped that its appearance will bring about a reprint of Turgenev's novels—most of them out of print.

JOSEPH MACLEOD. *The New Soviet Theatre*. Allen and Unwin. 12s. 6d.

Very little is known of the modern Russian theatre since the frenzied experimentation that followed the Revolution. Mr. Macleod brings the record up to date in this detailed and interesting survey. After reading it, one is convinced that in the U.S.S.R. the theatre is essentially of the people, and that its varied developments show a response to public criticism unknown in other countries. Mr. Macleod has made extensive researches into current literature, and these, in addition to his personal knowledge of the Russian stage, make this the most complete and accurate record we are likely to have for some time.

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Correspondence

The Library,
Queen's University, Belfast.
12th February, 1943.

The Editor,
The Library Assistant.
Sir,—

Miss Madden's comments on the McColvin report are important enough to demand a rejoinder even in these times of rationed space.

Some of her objections, indeed, can be answered easily. The vital point of contact between a library and its locality is that where the staff meet the readers; and if this is healthy, the service will not be handicapped by the lack of such a very local committee as Miss Madden wishes for. Again, the restriction on the initiative and judgment of the local librarian which she envisages would only be possible (as she admits) if there is a complete failure of the arrangements for consultation which are an essential (and important) part of the scheme.

There is more weight in Miss Madden's remarks on the dangers of transforming the best technicians into administrators; though, since this occurs to-day in all but the smallest library systems, which everyone agrees should not continue as separate units, this is not a damaging criticism of the McColvin proposals. But they are real dangers; they occur in many modern activities, being indeed implicit in any large-scale organisation; but since many activities can only be efficient if they are organised on a large scale, they are dangers that must be faced and met.

They cannot be met by the "parallel" organisation Miss Madden suggests, for if one person is to have real "administrative responsibility," he will not have "status equal with his fellows."

Fundamentally, they can only be met by the selection of persons with the necessary personal qualities—tolerance and appreciation in the higher ranks, enthusiasm and a sense of responsibility in the lower, and in all, loyalty to the organisation and a belief in democratic methods of discussion and co-operation. But something can be done by the structure of the organisation to give these qualities full scope, and when the time comes—as I trust it will—for the detailed criticism of the McColvin proposals, this is one of the things that must be borne in mind.

The Editor,
The Library Assistant.
Sir,—

Yours, etc.,
G. WOLEDGE.

Students taking the Classification examination in May will, I think, find the following example useful:—

King's Regulations . . . for the Royal Air Force, 1941. Para. 882, 3b.

"Arrangement of books in the library:—

- (i) The books will be arranged in sections, according to the subject matter, e.g., Mathematics, History, etc.
- (ii) The same descriptive letter will be given to all the books in each separate section.
- (iii) The books in each section will be numbered in sequence.
- (iv) When a new book is received, it will be added to the appropriate section and given the number next in sequence.
- (v) When there are several copies of the same book, the copies will be given the same section letter and number, and each copy will be given a sub-number, the sub-numbers following in sequence, e.g., M30/1, M30/2, etc."

Yours faithfully,

T. W. MUSKETT. (R.A.F.)

The Library Assistant

Association of Assistant Librarians

(Section of the Library Association)

Forty-Seventh Annual Report

covering the period January-December, 1942

Membership.—The membership of the Association at 31st December, 1942, was 3,458—a net increase of 252 over the figures for 1941. The distribution of members was as follows:

	Full L.A.	Transitional	Total
Honorary Fellows	20	—	20
Central Association	342	—	342
Divisions:			
Devon and Cornwall	75	—	75
Eastern	71	—	71
East Midlands	223	2	225
Greater London	823	13	836
Kent	129	—	129
Midland	364	—	364
North-Eastern	228	24	252
North-Western:			
Bolton and District	263	4	267
Liverpool and District	201	6	207
South-Eastern	65	1	66
South Wales and Monmouthshire	126	—	126
Wessex	126	1	127
Yorkshire	322	29	351
	3,378	80	3,458

Finance.—In accordance with the agreement made with the L.A. in 1939, the balance to be carried forward each year in the General Account is fixed at £325, the surplus being refunded to the L.A. The amount refunded in 1942 was £178 5s. 6d., making a total of approximately £983 refunded since the agreement was made. Whilst income remained about the same as in 1941, expenditure showed considerable increases in two items. The cost of *The Library Assistant* increased from £495 16s. 0d. to £572 3s. 0d. owing to increased printing charges and paper costs. Councillors' Expenses rose from £14 19s. 2d. to £77 16s. 0d., more meetings being held during the year, which is a welcome sign of renewed activity after a period during which Council meetings were rare events. There is evidence, too, in the Divisional Financial Statements of increased Divisional activities. It is therefore gratifying to find that the Divisions, with two exceptions, are managing quite well on the much reduced capitation payments. It is the policy of the Council not to allow the drastic cuts which have been made to cause serious financial inconvenience to any Division, and whilst urging that all Divisions should continue to exercise economy, consideration will no doubt be given to the financial position of the two Divisions whose balances in hand are extremely

The Library Assistant

low. A new item of expenditure appears this year under the heading "Parcels for Prisoners of War." It is a pleasure to place on record this small service which is being rendered to our less fortunate colleagues.

The Correspondence Courses Account shows a balance in hand of £39 11s. 5d. compared with £65 2s. 3d. in 1941, but there were on 31st December sums owing to the Association amounting to about £40 in respect of fees for courses starting in 1942, so that the financial position is quite sound.

Benevolent Fund.—No grants were made from the Benevolent Fund during the year. It is hoped that no case deserving of assistance has been overlooked; the Council relies largely on Divisional Committees and individual members to bring necessitous cases to its notice, and they are urged not to hesitate in reporting cases which may be known to them.

Correspondence Courses.—521 students entered for the ordinary courses during 1942, this being a decrease of 54 from last year. It is pleasing, however, to find that 22 of these courses have gone to members of the Forces and that 3 are being sent to prisoners of war. The L.A. has borne the entire cost of these last 3 courses and part of the cost for Service members whose fee is thus reduced to 10s. 6d. 81 students took the Revision Courses, this being an increase of 38 from last year.

The following new tutors have been accepted during the year :—Mr. G. Chandler and Mr. F. Taylor for the Elementary; Miss D. Woolley, Mr. E. F. Patterson and Mr. A. Strain for Part 2 of the Intermediate; and Mr. L. Harrod for Part 3 of the Final. Mr. J. Revie has become Section Editor for the Elementary Course. Miss M. Piggott has prepared a minimum standard part course for the Elementary, dealing with County Libraries, and Miss M. U. Robinson, a special course on University and Special Libraries for Final, Part 2.

The Council would like to thank all Tutors for maintaining so high a standard during the ever-increasing difficulties of these war years. During the last part of the year the administration of the Courses passed from the extremely capable hands of Mr. S. W. Martin to the equally capable ones of Mrs. S. W. Martin, owing to Mr. Martin's departure to the Army. The Council would like to record its appreciation of the efficient manner in which the organisation of the courses is conducted.

The sale of A.A.L. publications has been maintained during the year to the extent of £12 5s. 2d., which is a decrease of £6 3s. 8d. from last year.

Library.—The number of books issued in 1942 was 2,160, being 30 less than in 1941. The active membership has, however, increased from 158 to 176. Book purchase during this period has been concentrated mainly on increasing stocks of the more common text-books in order to eliminate waiting lists for all except out-of-print or otherwise unobtainable volumes.

The Council remains indebted to Mr. L. J. Packington, Chief Librarian of Lambeth, for continuing to allow the collection to be housed at the Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road, S.E.24, and to Miss B. F. Nevard for the excellent way in which she has carried out the duties of Hon. Librarian.

The Divisions.—Divisional Annual Reports, which may be had from Divisional Secretaries, make very interesting reading. In almost every Division membership has increased during the year and in many cases activities have almost reached a pre-war level. The numbers of meetings held range from eight to one, but all Divisions have shown critical interest in the McColvin Report and have formulated amendments or expressed approval of several sections in it. The Council wishes to place on record

(continued on page 50)

The Library Assistant

Statement of Income and

		Income		GENERAL	
		£	s. d.	£	s. d.
To Balance brought forward from 1941	.	.	.	325	0 0
„ Subscriptions	.	20	1 6		
„ Capitation Grant	.	924	6 0		
„ Sale of <i>The Library Assistant</i>	.	57	8 11		
„ Advertisements	.	59	14 0		
„ Sale of A.A.L. Publications	.	12	15 2		
				1,074	5 7

£1,399 5 7

The Balances in the hands of Divisions at 31st December, 1942, were :

	£	s.	d.
Devon and Cornwall	15	8	5
Eastern	30	2	9½
East Midlands	20	10	5
Greater London	106	17	5½
Kent	3	16	6
Midland	103	10	7

CORRESPONDENCE

		Income			
		£	s. d.		
To Balance brought forward from 1941	.	.	.	65	2 3
„ Students' Fees	.	.	.	852	6 6

£917 8 9

Audited and found correct :

(Signed) L. A. WRAY }
G. E. TROWSDALE } Honorary Auditors.

The Library Assistant

Income and Expenditure, 1942

ACCOUNT

	Expenditure	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Printing <i>The Library Assistant</i>		493	1	6			
" Distributing <i>The Library Assistant</i>		79	1	6			
" Payments to Divisions		132	14	9			
" Refund of Capitation to the L.A.		178	5	6			
" Councillors' Expenses		77	16	0			
" Library		14	2	4			
" Stationery and Printing		15	5	6			
" Postages		16	12	0			
" Clerical Assistance for Honorary Officers		47	6	0			
" Parcels for Prisoners of War		13	6	6			
" Miscellaneous		6	14	0			
					1,074	5	7
Balance carried forward to 1943					325	0	0
					£1,399	5	7

	£	s.	d.
North-Eastern	37	18	1
North-Western	70	11	8
South-Eastern	12	8	1
South Wales and Monmouthshire	6	1	5
Wessex	15	6	7
Yorkshire	36	4	0

COURSES ACCOUNT

	Expenditure	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
By Tutors' Fees		810	8	0			
" Course Editors' Fees		6	6	0			
" Refund of Fees to Students		4	6	0			
" Stationery and Printing		10	6	8			
" Honorary Education Secretary : Clerical Assistance and Expenses		29	18	0			
" Postages		15	11	8			
" Insurance		1	1	0			
					877	17	4
Balance carried forward to 1943					39	11	5
					£917	8	9

J. T. GILLET, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The Library Assistant

		BENEVOLENT FUND	
<i>Income</i>		£ s. d.	
To Balance brought forward from 1941		353	12 10
„ Donation		3	3 0
„ Interest on Post Office Savings Bank Account		1	4 0
„ Appreciation in value of National Savings Certificates, 1st Jan. to 31st Dec., 1942		8	19 6
		<hr/> £366 19 4	

		BENEVOLENT FUND	
STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES		AS AT 31st Dec., 1942	
<i>Assets</i>		£ s. d.	
To National Savings Certificates, value at 31st Dec., 1942		313	12 8
„ Post Office Savings Bank		50	3 8
„ Cash at Barclays Bank Ltd.		3	3 0
		<hr/> £366 19 4	

Audited and found correct :

(Signed) L. A. WRAY
G. E. TROWSDALE } *Honorary Auditors.*

4th February, 1943.

The Library Assistant

OLENT FUND ACCOUNT

s. d.	<i>Expenditure</i>	£ s. d.
12 10	By Balance carried forward to 1943	366 19 4½
3 0		
4 0		
19 6		
19 4		<u>£366 19 4½</u>

OLENT FUND ACCOUNT :

ITIES AS ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1942

s. d.	<i>Liabilities</i>	£ s. d.
2 8½	By Balance of Fund, 31st December, 1942	366 19 4½
3 8		
3 0		
9 4½		<u>£366 19 4½</u>

J. T. GILLETT, *Hon. Treasurer.*

The Library Assistant

an appreciation of the efforts of Divisional Officers and members of Committees and to express its gratitude to all individuals and library authorities who have contributed to the success of so many meetings.

Publications.—No additions to the A.A.L. series have been made during the year. Nine issues of *The Library Assistant* were published in 1942, and the coming year will see a further reduction in number, owing to the restrictions of Paper Control.

Dr. A. J. Walford, in spite of his call to H.M. Forces, has continued his valuable notes on the examinations, while Miss M. Piggott again contributes articles on "The County Scene." "Valuations," that popular feature, is now edited by Miss M. Jackson. Contributors in the Forces continue to use *The Library Assistant* as a forum, and articles and letters from India, Libya, South Africa and other theatres of war have been published during the year.

Officers and Council.—The Officers of 1941 have all continued in office. The Council has met four times during the year. Recommendations have gone to the L.A. on such questions as salary scales, paper and book supply continuance of examinations, subscriptions of serving members, a proposed library film and the re-constitution of the Library Association Council. The most important library event of the year has been the publication of the McColvin Report with its survey of the present and its detailed scheme for a post-war library world. The Council, in common with other Sections and Branches, has devoted the major part of its time and attention to a consideration of the proposals contained in this Report.

The Future.—The President's message—To peer into the future of the A.A.L. and the library profession is not usually the task of the President more than once. Fortunately, perhaps, for prophets have a higher reputation when they confine themselves to the spoken word. It is pleasing to note that nothing that was said last year has been disproved, and some of the less vague statements have been fulfilled. The McColvin Report *has* been published, it *has* proved controversial, and it *has* been used as a basis of discussion by the library profession. What will be its ultimate fate is still uncertain, but the word of warning about over-precipitation we gave last year still stands, reinforced by no less a person than the Prime Minister a few weeks ago. It is not easy to get a set of proposals for reform generally accepted by the library profession; how much more difficult will it be to get them accepted by the public at large.

Our confidence that they will eventually be accepted is based on several signs and portents. Change is in the air; people desire, not only a better world, but foundations for a permanently better world. There is an ever-increasing realisation by the people of the value of good libraries, though the fact that a good library is a direct result of a good librarian and a good Borough Council is not so generally realised. And our record of service in the last few years should not go unrewarded. Perhaps when this paragraph is written by another hand next year the shape of the rewards may be assuming some slightly more concrete form.

On behalf of the Council,

FRANK M. GARDNER, *President.*

ELSIE M. EXLEY, *Hon. Secretary.*

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